



# PERCH TALES

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Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
George J. Babey, Editor

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## Summer School That's Fun



Just in case you were wondering if the creation of our new Trout Parks and Urban Fisheries are successful, here are two anglers in Vernon that you might want to ask!

This summer was fantastic! In the last issue I challenged you to start fishing classes for your friends and neighbors during vacation time. You really took me seriously! Inside this issue you can see what we have all accomplished together. There were more events led by Certified Instructors than in any summer I can remember. **JUSTIN, TOM or I** were able to join many of you in the classroom or on the water, providing highlights for our summer too. Thanks to all Instructors who organized or helped!

**JEFF CARLSON** single-handedly took on three summer camps in Vernon with classes on bugs, fish, leeches or whatever else he could discover in the pond. **VINNY LAVORGNA** held a class for 24 students on the 23rd of August. Tom and Justin ran

an impromptu training in late June, with new Instructors **DAVID CASKO, SAMANTHA WENTWORTH, BEN SILLIMAN, KEVIN WALSH** and **HANNAH PETRI** starting classes immediately. George and Justin helped at **AMY and FRED PERRY's** weeklong fishing camp, at both fresh and saltwater trips organized by **GRACE JACOBSON** and at **CRAIG MERGINS'** Science Camp on the Connecticut River. **MARTY ARMSTRONG** convened some freshwater (Bridgeport) and saltwater (Norwalk) fishing fun for students, while **FRED FRILLICI** and **JOE HAINES** led classes for YMCA kids at Saugatuck Reservoir. **DICK EMMONS** and **JOE SCORDATO** taught classes on the UCONN-Stamford campus. Finally, **JOHN RYAN** organized fishing classes with his son, who is a teacher in the Bristol summer school. Wow!

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### *City Fishing in action, pp. 5-8*

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All this was going on while the **City Fishing 2007** team was leading classes for 1,200 students in day camps across the state. They also added new activities and improved curricula simultaneously!

Training is now the order of the day, with meetings led by **American Sportfishing Association**, the **American Fisheries Society** and **US Fish & Wildlife Service** on our schedules for the Fall. In the next edition of **Perch Tales** we'll update you on the news and innovations we discover, along with a plan for an Inservice training opportunity for CARE Instructors. In the meantime, enjoy some time fishing with your families. We all hope to see you soon! <"}}}}}>{

## ***Recent and Upcoming Classes***

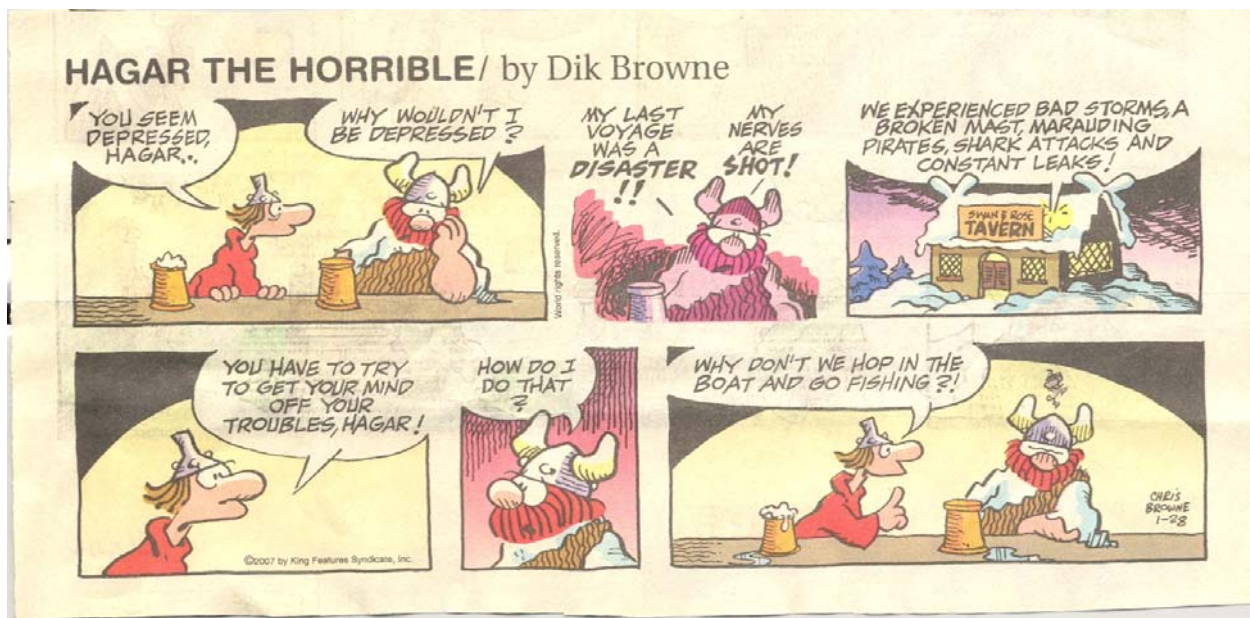
<i><b>Status</b></i>	<i><b>Class Dates</b></i>	<i><b>Chief Instructor</b></i>	<i><b>Town</b></i>	<i><b>Class Times</b></i>	<i><b>Instructor #</b></i>
FULL	AUG 1, 2007	SARAH LIBEN	STAMFORD	9:30AM TO 11:30PM	
FULL	AUG 1, 2007	SARAH LIBEN	STAMFORD	12:30PM TO 2:30PM	
OPEN	AUG 1, 2007	MARTY ARMSTRONG	NORWALK	11:30AM TO 2:00PM	(203) 334-2508
FULL	AUG 2, 2007	CASSANDRA CRANDALL	NEW LONDON	9:45 AM TO 12:00 PM	
FULL	AUG 6, 2007	JOHN MASTRIANNI	WEST HAVEN	10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM	
FULL	AUG 6, 2007	JOHN MASTRIANNI	WEST HAVEN	12:30 AM TO 2:30 PM	
FULL	AUG 7, 2007	FRED FRILLICI	EASTON	1:00PM TO 3:30PM	(203) 371-4237
FULL	AUG 8, 2007	SARAH LIBEN	NORWICH	9:30 AM TO 11:30 AM	
FULL	AUG 7, 2007	CASSIE CRANDALL	NORWICH	1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM	
FULL	AUG 8, 2007	ELIZA JOHNSON	KILLINGWORTH	9:30 AM TO 12:00 PM	
FULL	AUG 8, 2007	CRAIG MERGINS	HARTFORD	9:00AM TO 1:00PM	(860) 713-3131
FULL	AUG 9, 2007	JOHN MASTRIANNI	KILLINGWORTH	9:30 AM TO 12:00 PM	
FULL	AUG 10, 2007	JEFF CARLSON	VERNON	10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM	(860) 875-7549
FULL	AUG 10, 2007	TONY NORTON	MIDDLETOWN	10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM	(860) 940-8289
FULL	AUG 11, 2007	JUSTIN WIGGINS	THOMASTON	5:00PM TO 7:00PM	(860) 620-7063
OPEN	AUG 13, 2007	VINCENT LAVORGNA	WALLINGFORD	12:00PM TO 3:00PM	(203) 287-2669
FULL	AUG 13, 2007	JOHN MASTRIANNI	BRIDGEPORT	9:30 AM TO 12:00 PM	
FULL	AUG 13-17, 2007	AMY PERRY	DANBURY	9:00AM TO 4:00PM	(860) 663-3330
FULL	AUG 14, 2007	ELIZA JOHNSON	NORWALK	11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM	
FULL	AUG 15, 2007	SARAH LIBEN	KILLINGWORTH	10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM	
FULL	AUG 16, 2007	CASSANDRA CRANDALL	MERIDEN	12:30 PM TO 3:00 PM	
OPEN	AUG 24, 2007	JUSTIN WIGGINS	THOMASTON	6:00PM TO 8:00PM	(860) 620-7063
OPEN	OCT 6, 2007	RON GRAZIANI	KILLINGWORTH	9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM	(203) 265-6035
OPEN	OCT 13, 2007	LINDA BIRELEY	EAST HADDAM	2:00PM TO 5:00PM	(860) 434-9864F

# **TIPS FOR INTRODUCING KIDS TO FRESH WATER FISHING**

**By Martin Armstrong**

1. When you arrive at the water, choose your fishing location so you can fish the “either-or” technique. That means being able to cast to water that is either lit by the sun or in the shade; casting to water with either weeds or clear areas; casting to water with both deep and shallow spots. If a creek drains into your fishing water, that’s a good spot to fish because the current brings fresh water and food to your chosen area of fishing, which fish like. All fish don’t like to swim in the current because it can be tiring. They will be hiding behind a log or rock, so let your bait drift in the current to where the fish are waiting.
2. The most successful young anglers use worms or minnows, and put the bait under a float, which they watch very carefully. The secret, they say, is to let the fish take the bobber completely under the water and start to swim away. That’s the time to strike. Coach your young pro on the importance of patience. If the kids strike too soon, while the fish is just nibbling, all they do is take the food away from the fish.
3. The most successful young anglers will tell you that if they aren’t catching any fish, they change something. First they change the depth of the bait by sliding their bobber up or down on the line. Usually fish are close to the bottom, which makes it important to get the bait down there. If that doesn’t work, the young anglers change their bait or even move to another area.
4. Good pond or lake anglers know that fish in those waters scare easily and understand how important it is for people on the bank to speak and walk quietly. They also say they wear natural colors that blend into the fields and woods along the banks of the water.
5. The young anglers who most often catch fish say when they get a fish on the line they reel it in slowly but always fast enough to keep the line tight between the fish and the tip of the rod. If it’s a big fish and wants to run, they stop reeling until the fish has turned and started back toward the angler.

One last tip is to get to know the guys at your favorite bait shop. They can answer questions like where to fish and the best baits to use!



## ***IT'S SNAPPER TIME!***

Dear Fisher Folks:

Hope all of you have been out there drowning worms, flinging lures and flailing the waters with flies!

Wanted to remind you that snappers are starting to spritz the water surface with fleeing bait! So it's time to try catching these ubiquitous little fellows!

### **TIPS ON GEAR AND BAIT;**

Spearing (white bait) and shiners or mummychugs are good bait when the fish get bigger.

You can always use your bobber and a long-shanked small hook like the one on your Snapper Popper. If you have a net or a minnow trap, use pet food in a can (just punch a few holes in the top and rest it in your net or trap).

### **TIPS ON WHEN TO FISH:**

Snappers like a MOVING TIDE (coming in or going out).

They like BRIGHT SUNLIGHT. Except to catch a special tide, there's no need to get up at the crack o' dawn!

Bare in mind, you can fish for blues and bass in the same places. Just use bigger gear and cut bait (and don't forget to set the drag - might lose the whole shebang, including yourself if you're not careful! That goes for your snapper expeditions, too. If you don't set the drag loosely for snappers, you will miss a bigger fish and/or lose your lure.

Finally, local bait shops and large sporting stores will have some good discount sales on Combo Reels and Rods. You could also look for Ugly Sticks in combo or pick up one of the sale reels to match with whatever you can find. Ugly Sticks are a good value and nearly indestructible.

***Courtesy of Dick Emmons***



## ***CITY FISHING CREW 2007***

This summers' *City Fishing* crew consisted of four veterans and one newcomer. The CARE Program was extremely lucky to have **CASSIE CRANDALL**, **ELIZA JOHNSON**, **TONY NORTON**, and **JOHN MASTRIANNI** all come back for another season. They taught youth from around the state about water, pollution, fish, and fishing. The veteran crew was able to pass their knowledge on to a very eager and smart “greenhorn”, **SARAH LIBEN**. This crew set out Monday through Friday, and some weekends, all summer to cities throughout the state to teach a total of 1,176 students in 56 salt and freshwater fishing classes. A big THANK YOU to this great crew for all the hours of hard work they put in this past summer!



What they do when not teaching? **TONY NORTON** and **CASSIE CRANDALL** sit and fix a few of the hundreds of rods and reels that are repaired every summer by the *City Fishing* crew.

**ELIZA JOHNSON** demonstrates to a few students how to properly bait their hook! This is a much harder task than one might think.





The taxidermy display is being shown to a group of youngsters by an enthusiastic **JOHN MASTRIANNI**. Predator-Prey relationships, length and creel limits, and fish morphology are discussed. This portion of the curriculum is always a crowd favorite.

**SARAH LIBEN** was certainly not shy in her first season as part of the *City Fishing* team. She steps up here and explains why clean water is essential to fish and animal life.



The “pollution game” is an interactive project that **CASSIE CRANDALL** leads here. The *City Fishing* crew adapted this curriculum from a Potomac River education program. With a few tweaks from our *City Fishing* staff, they implemented this as a new part of their lesson plan this summer.





After being in the hot and humid weather all day, the crew returns to the CARE Center and prepares for the following day. Everyone does his or her equal part in this team. Repair equipment, bait cleanup, and filling out required paperwork and report forms are not as glorious as teaching, but are essential to a smooth running operation.

A saltwater *City Fishing* class is being held here at the Fort Trumbull State Park fishing pier. CARE instructor **DAVID CASKO** joins in the fun on this sunny day. David conducted two separate weeklong CARE classes. Students spent 12 hours in a classroom and 18 hours on fishing field trips during each class. Two days were spent in Killingworth at the CARE facility!



The *City Fishing* crew is casting all rods to make sure there are no problems with the equipment in the field as possible. Any broken reels or rods are repaired immediately. Thank you very much *City Fishing* crew 2007! The crew will respool and repair all 500 CARE program rods. This will ensure all rods you use next spring will be in perfect working order.